



FARM BUREAU SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The San Diego County Farm Bureau is concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Our county has more farms than any other in the United States and agriculture is the 4th largest industry.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as the valuable environmental resource it is. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Instead, the plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland and Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Without reliable and affordable water, farmers can neither provide habitat nor feed people. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

Finally, we believe Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment.

Sincerely,

David Stepp
President

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

Governor Gray Davis
Representatives

State Senate
Assemblymembers
Board of Supervisors

Serving San Diego County Agriculture Since 1913